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Foreign Ministers of Americas To Hold Trial of Castro, Cuba

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THE hour of truth is approaching for the Organization of American States. The foreign ministers of every American republic except Communist Cuba will be in Washington for their ninth emergency conference of consultation beginning Tuesday.

Fidel Castro and Communist Cuba will be on trial. The accuser is Venezuela. Castro was indicted last February by a special investigating committee of the OAS on charges of aggression filed by Venezuela under the provision of the Rio treaty of 1947.

He will be tried in absentia as Cuba is excluded from the OAS. In addition to Venezuela's bill of particulars in the indictment some of the foreign ministers of the other republics may try to add to the charges by documenting subversion against their countries directed by Castro.

Two weeks ago Castro used a United States newspaper as the medium through which to attempt to convince the OAS that he is going to behave and that he will cease and desist further directed Communist subversion of their countries if the United States would cease aiding the Cuban exiles.

He goofed badly with that one. The United States is not aiding Cuban exiles. And thus he sought to place the blame for his subversion of the other countries on the United States. And he implicitly convicted himself by that admission, as well as by his effort to seek a resumption of relations with Washington under his terms. And he attempted to revive the fable that the issue to be debated in Washington is exclusively a United States-Cuban quarrel.

This might have worked had not his younger sister Juana Castro defected and delivered a denunciation of Fidel before television cameras in Mexico. To reinforce its already iron-clad case against Cuba, Venezuela might very well request that the Juana Castro telecast be viewed at the conference by the foreign ministers.

This move would serve a psychological purpose, as an effort might be made to block the maneuver for procedural reasons. It would compel the nations soft on Castro to be counted before the vote on a resolution that would call for every penalty short of the employment of armed forces against Castro.

If there is going to be such a resolution, President Donald J. Reid-Cabral of the Dominican Republic will attend the conference in his role of foreign minister. He plans to arrive with Mrs. Reid if he is assured in advance that there is a firm determination to apply sanctions against Castro. This he told me last week in Santo Domingo, and he will also add charges of Castro aggression against the Dominican Republic.

Reid can ill afford to leave his troubled country but he considers the meeting here so important for the liberation of Cuba from communism that he has been planning to attend. He recalled what a psychological uplift the Dominicans received four years ago when the OAS applied sanctions against the late Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, the dictator of the Dominican Republic. It spurred them on to increase their resistance and to plot to put an end to the tyranny. The end came in nine months.

The foreign ministers of Colombia, Brazil, and Argentina can better furnish other accusations when they make their speeches in the general debate if they wish.

There will be no lack of evidence to prove aggravating circumstances against Castro. Thus the sanctions should be voted here with more ease than the eye lash victory at Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 1962 when Cuba was excluded from the OAS by the bare two-thirds majority of 14 votes required by the Rio treaty.